

**PATENT** 

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Tois et al.	)	Group Art Unit 1765
Appl. No.	:	10/148,525	)	
Filed	:	August 27, 2002	)	
For	:	METHOD OF GROWING OXIDE FILMS	) )	
Examiner	:	Song, M.	)	
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## DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTORSHIP UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131 TO OVERCOME A CITED PATENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

#### Dear Sir:

We, Eva Tois, Suvi Haukka and Marko Tuominen do hereby declare and say as follows:

- 1. We are the named joint inventors of the subject matter of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/148,525, which is the U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/FI00/01072, filed December 4, 2000, and which claims priority to Finnish Patent Application No. 19992616, filed December 3, 1999.
- 2. The joint inventors who contributed to the development of the presently claimed invention are Eva Tois, Suvi Haukka and Marko Tuominen.
- 3. We have read the Final Office Action dated February 13, 2004, and understand that Claims 30-34, 42-44 and 50-65 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,203,613 to Gates et al. ("the Gates patent").
- 4. We conceived of and reduced to practice at least the subject matter of independent Claims 30 and 56 of the present application prior to October 19, 1999 and, therefore, prior to the filing date of the Gates patent. The additional features of dependent Claims 31-55 and 65 were either conceived of and reduced to practice prior to October 19, 1999 or conceived of prior to

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October 19, 1999 and constructively reduced to practice with the filing of Finnish patent application number 19992616, filed December 3, 1999. Applicants worked diligently to reduce such features to practice during the time period between October 19, 1999 and December 3, 1999.

- 5. Exhibit A is a photocopy of an Invention Disclosure, written in Finnish, which describes the conception and reduction to practice of the invention claimed in the present application. All three joint inventors signed the invention disclosure prior to October 19, 1999.
  - 6. Exhibit B is an English translation of the Invention Disclosure.
- 8. At the time of the conception and reduction to practice of the invention, joint inventor Eva Tois' name was Eva Aro. Subsequent to filing the International Application Eva Tois legally changed her name from Eva Aro, as indicated on the invention disclosure and the International Application, to Eva Tois, as indicated on the Declaration and Assignment for the U.S. application. The name change occurred as a result of marriage. Exhibit C is a photocopy of a Decision in response to a Petition Under 37 C.F.R. §1.182 to Change Inventor's Name indicating that the name change from Eva Aro to Eva Tois has been recognized by the USPTO.
- All work described herein was performed by the other joint inventors, or on our behalf, in Finland, a WTO member country, after January 1, 1996.

We declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. We'l declare that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Vuly 6, 8004

July 7, 2004

Date

JULY 5, 2004

Eva Tois

Marko Tuominen

Made Dea

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KEKSINTÖILMOITUS (invention disclosure)

Keksijät (inventors)

Eva Tois née Aro, Suvi Haukka, Marko Tuominen

Keksinnön nimitys (title of the invention)

Piidioksidin ja piidioksidiin perustuvien sekaoksidien kasvattaminen ALCVD-menetelmällä (The deposition of silicon dioxide and mixed oxides based on silicon dioxide by the ALCVD-method)

Päiväys ja allekirjoitukset (date and signatures)

The invention has been signed and dated in Espoo

Lyhyt selvitys keksinnöstä (A short description of the invention)

Keksinnön kuvaus liitteessä. (The description of the invention (is) in an appendix.)

A short description of the invention:

The deposition of silicon dioxide and mixed oxides based on silicon dioxide by the ALCVD-method

## Eva Aro, Suvi Haukka and Marko Tuominen

In the invention it has been proved for the first time that silicon dioxide can be grown by the ALCVD-method by using organic silicon compounds and ozone as precursors. In addition, it has been proved that silicon-based mixed oxides can also be made with the method. Silicon dioxide has successfully been mixed with metal oxides for example Zr-, La-, Ti, Y-, Ta-, Al- and Hf-oxides.

3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APS, NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-Si-(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Si-NH-Si-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) were used as silicon precursors. The benefit of APS is that it can be used at a lower temperature than HMDS. This is because of the ethoxy ligands that burn easily causing an increase of the internal temperature (hot spots) thus further the removal of the propyl ligand. Silicon dioxide has been deposited from APS at 200 °C and 300 °C whereupon the growth rates have been 0.2 Å/cycle and 0.1 Å/cycle, respectively. If HMDS is used as a precursor, the temperature must be at least 400 °C whereupon the growth rate is 0.1 Å/cycle.

The refraction index of silicon dioxide made from APS was slightly over 1.4, which is indicative of pure silicon dioxide. The refraction index of silicon dioxide made from HMDS was over 1.7, which is indicative of large quantity of impurities, in this case high carbon contamination.

XPS-analysis was done from three different points of the mixed oxide samples that were made using APS as the silicon precursor. Based on the analysis, the grown mixed oxides were very homogeneous. The growth rates of these mixed oxides were considerably higher than that of pure silicon dioxide.

KEKSINTÖILMOITT No

Vastaanotettu

Käsittelijä

KEKSINTÖILMOITUS

Keksijät (nimi, henkilönumero, osasto, yhtiö jos muu kuin Neste Oy) Kustannuspaikka / Projekti Eva Aro, 640269, Sovellusinghma, Miterotermia Oy

Swi Hankka, 640031, Sovellusryhmä, Mitrokemia Oy Marko Tuominen, 64043K, Sovellusryhmä, Mikrokemia Oy

Keksinnön nimitys

Plidioksidin ja piidioksidiin perustuvien sekaoksidien tasuattaminen ALCUD-menetelmällä

Keksintő kuuluu kääntőpuolella määriteltyyn ryhmään (A) B C D (ympyrői)

Ilmoitan/mme, että tietääkseni/mme olen/mme ainoa/t ja oikea/t keksijā/t. Sitoudun/mme allekirjoittamaan kaikki ne asiakirjat, jotka tarvitaan keksinnön suojaamiseen eri maissa.

Päiväys ja allekirjoitukset

Keksintö voi tulla julkiseksi kääntöpuolella mainitulla tavalla

Lyhyt selvitys keksinnöstä (tarvittaessa ei liitteellä)

Keksinnön kuvaus lätterssä.

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Lyhyt selvitys keksinnöstä:

# Piidioksidin ja piidioksidiin perustuvien sekaoksidien kasvattaminen ALCVD-menetelmällä

Eva Aro, Suvi Haukka ja Marko Tuominen

Keksinnössä on ensimmäistä kertaa osoitettu, että ALCVD-menetelmällä voidaan kasvattaa piidioksidia käyttämällä orgaanisia piiyhdisteitä ja otsonia lähtöaineina. Lisäksi on osoitettu, että menetelmällä voidaan myös valmistaa piipohjaisia sekaoksideja. Piidioksidin kanssa on onnistuneesti seostettu metallioksideja esimerkiksi Zr-, La-, Ti-, Y-, Ta-, Al- ja Hf-oksideja.

Piilähtöaineina käytettiin 3-aminopropyylitrietoksisilaania (APS, NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Si-(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> ja heksametyylidisilatsaania (HMDS, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-Si-NH-Si-(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). APS:n etuna on se, että sitä voidaan käyttää alemmassa lämpötilassa kuin HMDS:a. Tämä johtuu etoksiligandeista, jotka palavat helposti aiheuttaen sisäisen lämpötilan nousun (hot spots) edesauttaen siten propyyliligandin poistoa. Piidioksidia on kasvatettu APS:sta 200 °C:ssa ja 300 °C:ssa, jolloin kasvunopeudet ovat olleet vastaavasti 0.2 Å/sykli ja 0.1 Å/sykli. Jos käytetään HMDS:a lähtöaineena pitää lämpötilan olla vähintään 400 °C, jolloin kasvunopeus on 0.1 Å/sykli.

APS:sta valmistetun piidioksidin taitekerroin oli vähän yli 1.4, joka viittaa puhtaaseen piidioksidiin. HMDS:ta valmistetun piidioksidin taitekerroin oli yli 1.7, joka taas viittaa epäpuhtauksien suureen määrään, tässä tapauksessa suureen hiilikontaminaatioon.

XPS-analyyysi suoritettiin kolmesta eri kohtaa sekaoksidinäytteita, jotka valmistettiin käyttäen APS:a piilähtöaineena. Analyysin perusteella valmistetut sekaoksidit olivat erittäin tasalaatuisia. Kasvunopeudet näillä sekaoksideilla olivat huomattavasti suuremmat kuin pelkällä piidioksidilla.